

DR. KLAUS ZUCHOLL, et al.  
U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/849,030

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2-3, 5-7 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to represent these claims at the appropriate time in the event no claims are allowed.

Please amend claims 1, 12-13, 16 and 18 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A household appliance for washing clothes or dishes having an addition unit for adding cleansing agent to a cleaning liquid, wherein the improvement comprises:

(a) a cleaning area for cleaning clothes or dishes;

(b) a first wash liquid circuit for a wash liquid or a cleaning liquid;

(c) a second wash liquid circuit for a portion of said wash liquid or for said cleaning liquid;

(d) an addition unit (9) having a solid cleansing agent holding receptacle (24) connected by a pressure line (7) to a rinsing pump (2) to deliver a wash liquid to the solid cleansing holding receptacle (24) in the addition unit (9) wherein a solid cleansing agent is ~~gradually~~ dissolved in ~~repeated~~ a plurality of washing cycles and wherein in each of said ~~repeated~~ plurality of

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washing cycles ~~and~~ said wash liquid removes a part or the remainder of said cleansing agent disposed in said addition unit ~~or until all of said solid cleansing agent is used;~~

(e) a rinsing pump (2) for circulating a portion of said wash liquid or for a cleaning liquid in said second wash liquid circuit;

(f) a control unit programmed to open and close said second wash liquid circuit; and

(g) a sensor for measuring a concentration of said cleansing agent in said apparatus and for providing data to said control unit to open and close said second wash liquid circuit.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 1 wherein said rinsing pump is a circulation pump (2) for said addition unit (9) and for circulating the wash liquid in the operation of the household appliance.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 1 further comprising an on-off valve (16) and a control unit (11) for a time-dependent switching of the on-off valve and a dispensing unit (12) for dispensing a partial quantity of the cleansing agent disposed in the addition unit (9).

9. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 8 further comprising a flowmeter (15) for a quantity-dependent switching of the on-off valve (16).

10. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 1 further comprising a dispensing unit (12) and a temperature sensor.

11. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 1 further comprising a dispensing unit (12) and a sensor (10) for determining the concentration of the cleansing agent.

12. (Currently amended) The household appliance according to claim 11 wherein the sensor (10) is ~~connected with~~ in communication with the liquid exiting from the addition unit (9) to determine the concentration of the cleansing agent.

13. (Currently amended) The household appliance according to claim 11 wherein the sensor (10) is ~~connected to~~ in communication with the wash liquid for measuring the

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concentration of the cleansing agent in the household appliance during the cleaning process.

14. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 11 wherein the sensor (10) is a conductance sensor.

15. (Previously presented) The household appliance according to claim 11 wherein the sensor (10) for determining the cleansing agent concentration also controls other functions of the household appliance.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for washing dishes or clothes comprising:

(a) a cleaning area for cleaning clothes or dishes;

(b) a first wash liquid circuit;

(c) a second wash liquid circuit;

~~+(a)+(d) an addition unit +(9) having a solid cleansing agent holding receptacle for holding a solid cleansing agent and adding the solid cleansing agent to a wash liquid gradually dissolved in repeated washing cycles in a household apparatus for gradually adding a cleaning agent (25) to a washing liquid;~~

~~+(b)+(e) a pump +(2) for pumping said washing wash liquid in said first wash liquid circuit in said household apparatus;~~

~~+(c)+(f) a bypass conduit providing a fluid connection to said second wash liquid circuit +(7) connecting said pump with for a partial flow of a wash liquid from said first wash liquid circuit, said wash liquid being a portion of said wash liquid in~~

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said first wash liquid circuit or a liquid having a portion of dissolved cleansing agent, to said addition unit for removing all or part of said ~~cleaning~~ cleansing agent disposed in said addition unit with said ~~washing~~ wash liquid;

~~(d) a measurement chamber (28) to measure the concentration of said cleansing agent in said washing liquid; and~~

~~(e)(g) a control unit (11) programmed to open and close said conduit 7 second wash liquid circuit connecting said pump with said addition unit; and~~

(h) a sensor for measuring a concentration of said cleansing agent in said apparatus and for providing data to said control unit to open and close said second wash liquid circuit.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of washing dishes or clothes in a household appliance comprising:

(a) utilizing a solid cleansing agent that is gradually dissolved in repeated washing cycles in an addition unit;

(b) pumping a wash liquid in a household appliance to clean clothes or dishes contained therein in a first wash liquid circuit;

(c) diverting a portion of said wash liquid in said first wash liquid circuit to a second wash liquid circuit in fluid connection with an addition unit to dissolve a portion of said solid cleansing agent as required;

(d) employing a sensor to measure concentration of said solid cleansing agent in said wash liquid; and

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(e) having a control unit for controlling said step of diverting a portion of said wash liquid as required in response to said measure of said concentration of said solid cleansing agent in said wash liquid.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said control unit operates an on-off valve for said step of diverting a portion of said wash liquid.

#### R E M A R K S

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the constructive personal interview on October 3, 2007, as noted in the Interview Summary Form PTOL-413. The substance of that interview is filed concurrently herewith in a Statement of the Substance of the Interview.

##### 1. Formal Matters

The formal drawings filed on April 24, 2007, have been accepted.

The amendment to claim 16 is fully supported by the specification as filed. Claim 16 has been clarified to conform to the embodiment exemplified in figure 1. Figure 1 demonstrates a cleaning area, a first wash circuit, a second wash circuit, a pump, a bypass conduit, a control unit and a sensor. Claim 1 has

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been amended to incorporate the limitations of amended claim 16. Claim 1 and claim 16 are substantially similar. However, claim 1 contains alternative references points to specific elements in the specification that appear in both figure 1 and in figure 3 or figure 4.

The amendment to each of claims 12-13 and 18 is supported by the underlying claim.

## 2. Claim Objections and Indefiniteness Rejections

The claim objections as well as the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have been addressed or rendered moot by the claim amendments set forth above in the Listing of Claims.

## 3. The Chan et al. Prior Art

The invention as discussed during the interview pertains to an apparatus having a cleansing agent addition unit that holds a cleansing agent. The cleansing agent is distributed from the addition unit by a wash liquid having a dissolved cleansing agent in the wash liquid entering the addition unit. The wash liquid entering the addition unit is drawn from wash liquid circuits and is not drawn directly from a fresh water source.

The Chan et al. reference in contrast only uses a fresh water supply (Chan et al., figure 1, element 119) in providing a fluid for dissolving the detergent (Chan et al., figure 1, element 114) in the apparatus disclosed by figure 1 and described

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at column 5, lines 6-10. Chan et al. does not disclose or suggest a cleansing agent addition unit in which a cleansing agent is distributed from the addition unit by a wash liquid having a dissolved cleansing agent in the wash liquid entering the addition unit. Furthermore, Chan et al. does not disclose or suggest using a wash liquid delivered to an addition unit through wash liquid circuits wherein the wash liquid has dissolved cleansing agent present in the liquid as it enters an addition unit.

The other prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102 and 103 set forth in the Office Action mailed July 11, 2007, have been rendered moot by the claim amendments set forth above in the Listing of Claims as claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16, and claims 4 and 8-15 all depend from amended claim 1.

Claims 18 and 19 are drawn to a method of use associated with claims 1 or 16 and as such are also novel and nonobvious. Applicants traverse the restriction of these claims as drawn to a non-elected invention. However, in the interests of expediting prosecution of the remaining claims under examination, upon an indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants will agree to cancel claims 18 and 19 in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application to an allowance.

The pending claims claim a novel and unobvious invention for which patent protection is respectfully requested.

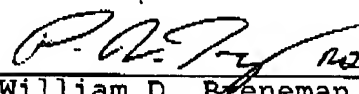


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Respectfully submitted,

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